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DE RUEHAN #1131 3110455
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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0632
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0942
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 001131

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/E, AF/FO, AND INR/AA
PARIS FOR D'ELIA
DEPT FOR DS/IP/AF CKOLLMAR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [ASEC](#) [MA](#)
SUBJECT: GRENADE ATTACK ON PRESIDENT'S COMPANY IN TULEAR

REF: 06 ANTANANARIVO 972

11. (SBU) An early morning grenade attack on a MAGRO building, part of the TIKO conglomerate owned by President Marc Ravalomanana, slightly injured one gendarme and caused minor material damages November 5. Local security forces in the southwestern city of Tulear have launched an investigation to identify the unknown assailants. The city of Tulear is calm at this time. On the same day, a military sergeant was arrested for stealing weapons from a military camp stock room south of the capital of Antananarivo. At that time, gendarmes noticed an undetermined number of weapons, likely AK-47s, had previously been taken.

12. (SBU) COMMENT: Gendarme contacts are characterizing these acts as attempts to destabilize the populace preceding the December 12 municipal elections. Over the years, Post has reported on similar incidents, usually grenade attacks against symbolic buildings and political figures' homes. Often done after hours, these expressions of political discontent have usually resulted in minimal damage or injury (reftel). The President's MAGRO factories in Tamatave and Fianarantsoa have both sustained grenade attacks with minimal damage since he took office in 2002. END COMMENT.

MARQUARDT